

Report on August 2007 Commission Meeting

Professional Services Division

October 2007

Overview of this Report

At the August 2007 Commission meeting, staff brought the fourth in a series of items to the Commission related to SB 2042 and work that remains to be completed. The category of issues discussed at the August 2007 Commission meeting was the issues related to the subject matter preparation for multiple and single subject teachers.

Staff Recommendation

This is an information item.

Background

The August 2007 Commission agenda item provided additional information on SB 2042 (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2007-06/2007-06-6C.pdf>) specifically focused on subject matter teacher preparation. The policy issues identified for the Commission within subject teacher preparation are listed below.

Policy questions related to elementary subject matter preparation:

1. Should the Commission continue to approve Elementary Subject Matter Programs even though completion of the program does not waive the requirement that the candidate pass the subject matter examination?
2. Should the Commission rescind approval for the currently approved Elementary Subject Matter Programs?
3. Should the Commission endorse or recognize Elementary Subject Matter Programs, instead of approving the programs, since completion of the program does not waive the requirement that the candidate pass the subject matter examination? If yes, what should the review process be for the programs? Should it be the same as when the programs were originally approved or should it be a different review process?
4. Should there continue to be both the approved program route and the examination route for candidates to satisfy the subject matter requirement for Single Subject credentials?

Summary of Commission Discussion

The Commission discussed the policy issues listed above. The Commission had an extended discussion related to subject matter programs. The discussion addressed the elementary subject matter programs and the CSET: Multiple Subject examination. One topic that was raised by a number of individuals is the collection and analysis of data related to the rigor and reliability of the subject matter preparation and if employers prefer individuals who have completed a subject matter program. The Commissioners requested that staff return with another item that addresses questions 1, 3, and 4 at a future meeting.